REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given the present application. Claims 1-3, 7-14, and 21 are pending, of which claims 1 and 12 are independent. Claims 4-6, 15-20, and 22 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants reserving the right to file one or more continuing applications directed to the subject matter of the cancelled claims at a later date if so desired.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, and 15 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 12 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 4, and 7. It is believed all of the pending claims include subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner or depend on a claim including such allowable subject matter. Accordingly, passage of this application to issue is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fee not otherwise provided for, including application processing, extension, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

Kendrew H. Colton, #30,368

Customer No. 42798

One Lafayette Centre 1120 - 20th Street, NW, Suite 750, South Washington, DC 20036 (202) 419-7000 (telephone) (202) 419-7007 (telecopier) KHC:rk